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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

E. C. GIMSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

MALDON:
Gowers, Ltd., Printers, 57, High Street.

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TO THE

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to make the following report on the Witham Urban District for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The Vital Statistics for the year are as follows :—Number of Deaths registered in the District (R.G.) was 37 giving a Death Rate of 9·7 per 1,000 population.

Deaths classified according to age were as follows :—

Under 1 year ...	...	1
1 year and under 2	...	—
2 years and under 5	...	—
5 years and under 15	...	—
15 years and under 25	...	5
25 years and under 45	...	3
45 years and under 65	...	6
65 years and upwards	...	24
Total	...	39

The difference in number (from the R.G.) is owing to 2 transferable deaths.

The one Death under 1 year was due to Whooping Cough and Bronchitis.

There were 3 Deaths due to Tuberculosis ; of these 1 was due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 due Tuberculosis of Larynx and 1 to Tubercular Meningitis.

Of the five Deaths due to Malignant Disease, 3 occurred in people of over 70 years of age, one 62 years and one 47 years of age.

The number of Births registered during the year was 63 giving a Birth Rate of 16·6 per 1,000 population.

The Infantile Death Rate—namely the number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births—was 15·8.

Notifiable Diseases for 1925 (other than Tuberculosis.)

The number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was 9 :—

2 cases of Diphtheria
5 ,, ,, Pneumonia
2 ,, ,, Erysipelas

The 2 cases of Diphtheria both occurred at Bridge Home, and two of the five Pneumonia also occurred there and one of Erysipelas. This really brings the total for Witham itself down to 3 Pneumonias and 1 case of Erysipelas, and this I consider is very satisfactory.

Number of Primary and Re-vaccinations by Public Vaccinator for 1925 :—

Primary	34
Re-Vaccinations ...	10

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	3,713
Population (R.G. 1925)	3,785
Number of inhabited houses ...	927
Rateable value	£22,531
Sum represented by a Penny rate ...	£93 17s. 7d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births	Legitimate	60	33	27	Birth Rate, 16·6
	Illegitimate	3	1	2	
Deaths ...		37	15	22	Death Rate, 9·7

Notifiable Diseases for the Year, 1925.

Notifiable Disease.	Total.	Under 1 year.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Cases sent to Hospital.	Deaths.
Pneumonia	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	..	...	4
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
Totals	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	2	...	1	4
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary															
Males	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Females ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Total	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	2
Non-Pulmonary															
Males	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Females ..	—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.
Total	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Grand Total ...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	3	2	...	1	7

Notifiable Diseases for the past 5 Years.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Totals	17	11	15	26	13
Diphtheria	6	1	3	...	2
Scarlet Fever	5	1	2	11	...
Enteric Fever	2	1	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorium... ...	1	..	...	..	...
Pneumonia	...	2	6	2	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	2	7	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	2	3	...	2	3
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) ...	1	3	1	2	1

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :—
From Sepsis ... ... Nil.
From other causes ... ... One.

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1 (legitimate).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births :—
Legitimate 15·8. Illegitimate Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... Nil.
,, ,, Whooping Cough 1
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) Nil.

Causes of Death.

Cause of Death.	Ulcer of Stomach.	Whooping Cough.	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	Cancer.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	Heart Disease.	Arteriosclarosis.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia	Diseases due to Pregnancy.	Other defined Diseases.	Total.
Males	1	...	...	1	2	...	3	...	1	3	...	4	15
Females	...	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	6	1	1	3	22
Totals	1	1	1	2	5	3	4	1	7	4	1	7	37

4.

There has been no marked outbreak of any particular disease during the year.

Influenza has been of a mild type, but associated with a lot of ear trouble and neuritis.

5.—Summary of Nursing and Hospital Arrangements.

There is a Parish Nurse who visits patients at their own homes and does dressings and general nursing.

There is also a qualified Midwife residing at the Nurse's Bungalow who takes maternity cases for the District.

The Bungalow has an Emergency Ward for accidents, emergency maternity cases or maternity cases in which the home surroundings or accommodation are unsuitable.

There is an Infant Welfare held twice a month, when mothers can weigh their babies and ask for advice.

There is also an Ante-Natal Clinic, and a Health Visitor appointed by the Ministry of Health.

HOSPITALS. Cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the Isolation Hospital of the Maldon Joint Hospital Board at Heybridge, and Small Pox cases to the same authority's hospital at Totham.

For General Hospitals we are dependent upon Chelmsford and Colchester, and I cannot speak too highly of the way they meet us in every emergency.

AMBULANCES. The Heybridge Hospital provides its own ambulance for Infectious Cases.

The Council's Ambulance (presented by the Hon. C. H. Strutt) is practically worn out and in view of the enormous increase in traffic on the roads, it is absolutely necessary that a larger one (capable of dealing with four stretcher cases) should be obtained. I believe the Council have this under consideration at the present time.

6.

Laboratory Work.

Chemical and Bacteriological work is undertaken by the County Council, and is most satisfactory. Examination of water, milk, etc., is still left to the Urban Council.

Number of specimens submitted for examination :—

Diphtheria	...	...	33
Sputa	...	...	21
Typhoid	...	...	2
Ringworm	...	...	2

Legislation in Force.

Acts and Orders for 1925 :—

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924.
The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.
The Public Health Act, 1925.
The Housing Act, 1925.
Public Health Regulations, 1924.

7.

Sanitary Administration.

WATER SUPPLY. The Urban portion of the district is supplied fron New Waterworks on the Cressing Road, and is satisfactory as regards quantity and quality.

RIVERS & STREAMS. The rivers Brain and Blackwater were polluted from the Sewage Farm before the new system of treatment was commenced. In flood time the pollution was very bad indeed. This has ceased since the septic tank and filter beds have been in action.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. The Urban area is re-sewered, and the sewage dealt with on the Sewage Farm.

The new System with Septic Tanks and Filter Beds has proved fairly satisfactory.

The main trouble is having to pump all the sewage from the Low Level Sewer to the Septic Tank, and one of the engines has given a lot of trouble and been out of action several times.

The Pumps, when running well, are capable of dealing with 60,000 gallons of sewage a day and this does not leave much margin for any defect in pumping.

The effluent is distributed over the land.

Powers Hall End and Guithavon Road remain unsewered.

New houses have been connected up with the sewer :—

Cressing Road, 57 ; Braintree Road, 2 ; The Avenue, 4 ; Spinks Lane, 3.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Nearly all the houses in the Urban area have flushing closets. In the Rural area the majority have pail closets, but some cesspit privies still exist.

The approximate numbers are as follows :—

Water Closets	1100
,, ,, hand-flushed ...	38
Cesspit Privies	65
Pail Closets	116

SCAVENGING. House refuse is collected by the Council carts and taken to the Sewage Farm.

The majority of the houses have portable iron dust bins and these are emptied weekly.

The present dust carts are not suitable and should be completely covered in to prevent the refuse blowing about the streets and also in summer to keep off the flies.

COWSHEDS. There are 10 Cowsheds which are inspected quarterly. No regular inspection of Milk.

BAKEHOUSES. Five, these are satisfactory and inspected quarterly.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES. Four, these are satisfactory and Inspected quarterly.

SCHOOLS. There are two Elementary Schools. Sanitation good. The County Education Committee are responsible for the medical inspection of the children.

FOOD No food has been found unfit.

TABLE V.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Witham during the year ending December 31st, 1925.

		Total No. for Year.
1	Complaints received	8
2	Nuisances detected without complaint	14
3	Nuisances abated	22
4	Nuisances remaining unabated	—
5	Formal Notices served	—
6	Summonses taken out	—
7	Conviction obtained	—
8	Lodging-houses inspected	—
	Frequency of Inspection	—
9	Slaughter-houses inspected	4
	Frequency of Inspection	Quarterly
10	Bakehouses inspected	5
	Frequency of Inspection	Quarterly
11	Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	—
	Frequency of Inspection	—
12	Cowsheds inspected	10
	Frequency of Inspection	Quarterly
13	No. of samples of milk taken for examination for cleanliness, tubercle bacilli, etc.	—
14	Filthy Houses cleansed (Sec. 46, Public Health Act, 1875	
15	Houses disinfected	3
16	Overcrowding abated	—
17	Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied	67
18	"Certificates" granted	67
19	,, deferred	—
20	Public wells, total No. in District	—
21	New Public Wells sunk or improved supplies of Water	—
22	Wells cleansed or repaired	—
23	Wells closed	—
24	Privies, No. District	65
25	,, No. abolished during the year	—
26	Pail Closets, No. in District	116
27	Water Closets, No. in District without flushing cistern	3
28	Water Closets, with flushing cistern	1100
29	Privies and W.C's. repaired; W.C's. supplied with water	—
30	Water cisterns cleansed, repaired or covered ...	—
31	Animals improperly kept removed	—
32	Samples of Water taken for analysis	—
33	Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	—
38	Seizures of unsound Meat, etc.	—

(Signed) W. P. PERKINS, M.S.I.A., Assoc. R. San. Inst.,
Inspector of Nuisances.

Essex County Council.—Public Health Department.

SANITARY DISTRICT OF WITHAM.

Information in regard to Housing within the area, Year 1925.

Question.	Answer.
No. of new Houses erected during year, total ...	67
As part of Muncipal Housing Scheme	50
Unfit Dwelling Houses	—
Total No. inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	66
No. which were inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation 1910 ...	
No. found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	20
No. of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation ...	16
Remedy of defects without service of formal notices ...	
No. of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	
Action under Statutory Powers	
A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :—	None
1. No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	16
2. No. of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit:	
(*a*). By Owners	
(*b*). By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
3. No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close	20

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

1. No. of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
2. No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(*a*) By Owners	—
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c.. Act, 1909 ... None

1. No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	—
2 No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
3. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ...	—
4. No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
5. No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

(Signed) E. C. GIMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. (Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspectors of Nuisances).

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	8	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total ...	12		

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects. Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—

(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)

Housing in the District.

A total of 67 New Houses have been erected during the year.

50 of them being part of the Municipal Housing Scheme.

17 by private enterprise.

I think the year both from a Health and House-building point of view has been a very satisfactory one.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD C. GIMSON,

M.O.H.